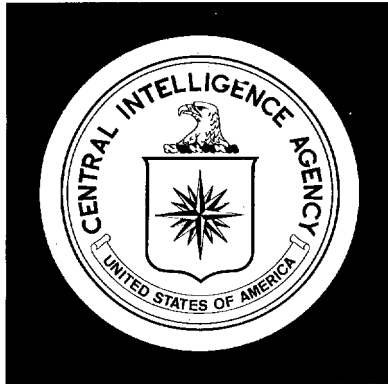


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Top Secret

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16 September 1972

25X1

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Approved For Release 2004/07/08 : CIA-RDP79T00975A022800020002-5

16 September 1972

Central Intelligence Bulletin

CONTENTS

25X1

SWEDEN-YUGOSLAVIA: Croatian extremists continue to hold air passengers hostage. (Page 4)

INDIA-PAKISTAN-BANGLADESH: The stalemate continues. (Page 5)

25X1

CYPRUS: Intercommunal talks jeopardized. (Page 8)

25X1

25X1

Approved For Release 2004/07/08 : CIA-RDP79T00975A022800020002-5

Next 3 Page(s) In Document Exempt

Approved For Release 2004/07/08 : CIA-RDP79T00975A022800020002-5

SWEDEN-YUGOSLAVIA: Croatian extremists this morning continue to hold 51 passengers hostage on a Scandinavian Airlines System (SAS) jet at the Malmo airport in southern Sweden.

The Swedish Government acceded to the hijackers' demand for the release of a number of convicted Yugoslav terrorists, including the two men who killed Yugoslav Ambassador Rolovic in 1971. One of the prisoners asked for by the hijackers reportedly refused to go. Six of the released Yugoslav prisoners are already on board the plane, but one report claimed that the hijackers have demanded \$200,000 before they will release all the passengers. The three hijackers threaten to blow up the plane if their demands are not met and have displayed the explosives they have available.

The hijackers' intended destination if their demands are satisfied is uncertain. They reportedly asked for weather reports for several cities south of Malmo as far as Italy and may plan to head for North Africa. The hijacking, the first in Swedish history, could have serious implications for Swedish-Yugoslav relations if Stockholm lets the terrorists have their way.

INDIA-PAKISTAN-BANGLADESH: Efforts to resolve key differences remain stalemated.

Troop pullbacks from territory occupied during the war last December are stalled as Indian and Pakistani military representatives continue to try to delineate the cease-fire line in Kashmir. The two sides had agreed late last month to withdraw by 15 September from all occupied territory except Kashmir. The Indians, however, are insisting that the Kashmir line must be settled before the withdrawals can be implemented. New Delhi may be intentionally delaying the withdrawals in an effort to press Pakistan into recognizing Bangladesh. India holds over 5,000 square miles of Pakistani territory, far more than Pakistan occupies in India.

President Bhutto insists that he cannot recognize the Dacca government until after a meeting has taken place between Bengali and Pakistani officials. During his stopover on Thursday in New Delhi, Bangladesh Prime Minister Mujib publicly reiterated that recognition must take place before such a meeting,

25X1

Bhutto and Mujib eventually may agree to such an arrangement, but a major obstacle to improved relations would remain in Mujib's insistence on Bangladesh's right to try as war criminals some of the more than 90,000 Pakistani prisoners being held in India.

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25X1

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Next 2 Page(s) In Document Exempt

Approved For Release 2004/07/08 : CIA-RDP79T00975A022800020002-5

CYPRUS: Recent statements by Turkish Cypriots implying that they will seek international recognition for their community's political autonomy may jeopardize the intercommunal talks.

The talks, now in recess, are scheduled to resume on 26 September. The participants in the talks--negotiators from the Turkish and Greek Cypriot communities and representatives from Greece, Turkey, and the UN--are expected to discuss the key issue--the degree of autonomy to be granted the Turkish Cypriot community. The Turkish Cypriots are skeptical that a settlement favorable to them can be worked out and one Turkish Cypriot leader in early September offered this as a justification for seeking a separate Turkish Cypriot government.

Since then, the UN peacekeeping force on Cyprus (UNFICYP) has become concerned about stepped-up Turkish Cypriot violations of the status quo. The UN force commander and the secretary-general's personal representative on the island say that the Turkish Cypriots are continuing to assume new positions and privileges, including restricting the movements of Greek Cypriot police patrols, despite UN objections. The UN leaders add that the Turkish Cypriot hierarchy and the Turkish Embassy have been unresponsive to UN requests for immediate corrective action.

After a week's delay, a Greek Cypriot spokesman finally denounced the Turkish Cypriot belligerency, hinting that Turkey is responsible. There has been no reaction from Ankara so far, and public silence can only encourage the Turkish Cypriots. In these circumstances, stronger Greek Cypriot reaction is probable, and the intercommunal talks, which both Ankara and Athens would like to see succeed, could suffer.

16 Sep 72

Central Intelligence Bulletin

8

25X1

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Next 4 Page(s) In Document Exempt

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